

Mini Feature: Ask someone about their most enjoyable course at UNCC they are taking right now: Brett Blue



UNC Charlotte mechanical engineering student Brett Blue finds himself with a community he would have never expected through a senior design class. The group of five get food, joke and spend time together outside of the strenuous work and meetings for a capstone project with Lowe's Hardware. Details of the project are secret, as members had to sign an NDA. The only piece of information that could be disclosed was the fact that they are attempting to develop a quick release and attachment method for lawnmower blades.

The capstone project group eats together after important meetings, the most notable and recent meal for Blue was at Metro Diner after an 8 a.m. presentation at the Lowe's Hardware headquarters in Mooresville, NC, around 45 minutes from UNCC's campus. Blue enjoyed the food and service, and thought of the event as a fond memory. Besides eating meals together, Blue and his group would also play volleyball and pickleball in the UNCC UREC towards the beginning of the semester when he had more free time. "We all have the same type of humor too," Blue said. "So it's like, just bouncing off of each other."

Blue was able to find this community through chance, as groups were not chosen by the students themselves. The summer before the semester starts, students are sent an email through Canvas to sign up for projects and rank them based on interest, and then groups are randomly assigned from there. Blue was able to get one of his top ranked three projects. Throughout the semester, Blue was also required to fill out a time card and log around 20 hours of work per week, which he described as like clocking in and out of work.

Blue is thriving in this course with its work, and found a group that he can not only call peers, but also friends. This is the reason it is his most enjoyable course in the Fall 2025 semester. "It's going really well," Blue said. "We had our preliminary design review that we got a 97 on. So that presentation went pretty good, and overall, it's pretty enjoyable. My group's amazing." Getting an A on the Lowe's Hardware presentation was achieved through their hard work and helping each other with the workload.